

Regarding independent Claims 1 and 6, in summary of Examiner's rejections, Examiner indicates (repeated herein in part for convenience):

5 "Hendricks fails to show that the conference comprising a video
conference session being conducted between such coupled DTV receivers,
each DTV receiver comprises a video camera and display belonging to a
logical group, the conference being enabled within the logical group
simultaneously with the program delivery to the selected subscribers of the
logical group, whereby collaboration is effectively enabled by video
10 conferencing among the selected subscribers while a common program is
delivered simultaneously to such selected subscriber."

Examiner indicates that Flohr, however, shows the videoconferencing not discussed or shown in Hendricks. In particular, Examiner referenced Flohr (Column 8, lines 52-60) as
15 indicating that Flohr describes each workstation, PC2...PC X, having stored software for
generating text data messages transmitted via the A-LAN between workstations for
initiating and terminating a videoconference, and as such, that it would be obvious to one
of ordinary skill in the art to modify such text based program to deliver audio/visual
conferencing while delivering television signals between workstations.

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Applicant respectfully traverses and requests reconsideration of this Application on the grounds that Flohr does not describe, nor teach the elements of Applicant's Claim 1, repeated here in part and emphasized for convenience of discussion. Applicant's Claim 1 provides in part:

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...enabling a conference between the coupled DTV receivers
during program delivery, the conference comprising a video conference session being conducted between such coupled DTV receivers, each DTV receiver comprising a video camera and a display, such coupled DTV
30 receivers being associated with a plurality of selected subscribers

belonging to a logical group, the conference being enabled within the logical group simultaneously with the program delivery to the selected subscribers of the logical group, the display of each coupled DTV receiver displaying the delivered program and at least one selected subscriber in the conference, whereby collaboration is effectively enabled by video conferencing among the selected subscribers while a common program is delivered simultaneously to such selected subscribers.

(Applicant's Claim 1 in part, with portions underlined for emphasis.)

Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant's Claim 1 particularly provides (as emphasized above) a "conference session comprising a video conference session... being associated with a plurality of selected subscribers belonging to a logical group, the conference being enabled within the logical group simultaneously with the program delivery ... the display of each coupled DTV receiver displaying the delivered program and at least one selected subscriber in the conference, whereby collaboration is effectively enabled by video conferencing ... while a common program is delivered simultaneously to such selected subscribers."

Flohr does not describe, teaches nor suggests the above-emphasized elements of Applicant's Claim 1. Although, Flohr does provide two basebands, an A-LAN and a B-LAN, Flohr clearly states that A-LAN is used to transmit and receive data messages that controls, or signals, initiating and terminating a videoconference, not provide videoconferencing itself. In particular Flohr provides (repeated in part and emphasized below for convenience):

...Each workstation, PC 2... PC X, has stored therein a software program for generating and receiving data messages, transmitted via the A-LAN, to and from another workstation, respectively, for initiating and terminating a videoconferencing. The data messages initiate and control the

transmission of the television signals on the B-LAN such that a number of the television signals can be, and are transmitted simultaneously on the B-LAN with each television signal assigned to a separate frequency channel.

(Flohr, Col. 8, lines 52-60, underlined for emphasis added.)

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Flohr states that of the two bands, videoconferencing is delivered via television channels transmitted on B-LAN, and that the videoconferencing and television channels are under the control of the signalling provided on A-LAN. (See additionally, Flohr, Column 9, Lines 28-30). Furthermore, Flohr describes a videoconferencing session starting in

10 Column 14, lines 4, wherein the data signalling via A-LAN are clearly handshake signals from one PC to another to initiate a videoconference session on B-LAN, and therefore does not describe, nor teach providing a videoconference session itself on the A-LAN.

Flohr clearly describes and teaches providing handshaking signals being transmitted on A-LAN in Flohr, Column 15, lines 2-65, which is also continued in Flohr, Columns 16-

15 17. For example, Flohr provides in Column 15:

...The data message comprises the following sections: a source address 152 (the address of the transmitting workstation); a destination address 154 (the address of the workstation or workstations to which the message is to be sent); the type identification 156...

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(Flohr, Column 15, lines 2-7)

Applicant therefore respectfully submits that it is clearly Flohr's teaching and suggestion to provide videoconferencing controlling signals on A-LAN to

25 control the videoconferencing provided on B-LAN. Thus, Applicant respectfully traverses Examiner's rejection of Applicant's Claim 1 on the grounds that Flohr does not teach Applicant's claim of a conference comprising a video conference session being associated with a plurality of selected subscribers belonging to a logical group, wherein the display of each coupled DTV receiver displaying the
30 delivered program and at least one selected subscriber in the conference session.

Applicant therefore respectfully requests Examiner to reconsider and withdraw rejection and to allow Applicant's Claim 1.

As to Applicant's Claim 6, Applicant similarly submits that the argument for allowing Applicant's Claim 1 also applies to request Examiner's withdrawal
5 of rejection and to allow Applicant's Claim 6. As provided in Applicant's Claim 6 which is repeated here in part:

...the conference comprising a video conference session being
conducted between such coupled DTV receivers...the conference being
10 enabled within the logical group simultaneously with the program delivery to the selected subscriber...the display of each coupled DTV receiver displaying the delivered program and at least one selected subscriber in the conference, whereby collaboration is effectively enabled by video conferencing among the selected subscribers, while a common program is
15 delivered simultaneously to such selected subscribers.
(Applicant's Claim 6 in part).

Accordingly, Applicant's independent Claim 6 also provides similar elements found in Claim 1 regarding the element comprising a conferencing session having
20 a video conference session between a plurality of selected subscribers simultaneous to the delivery of a common program to the selected subscribers (see Applicant's cited Claims 1 and 6 above.) Thus, Applicant respectfully also requests Examiner's withdrawal of rejection to Applicant's Claim 6 on basis of Applicant's argument presented above regarding Claim 1.

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Moreover, both Applicant's Claims 1 and 6 provide in part that "...the display of each coupled DTV receiver displaying the delivered program and at least one selected subscriber in the conference." (see Applicant's Claims 1 and 6 repeated in part above). Applicant respectfully submits that because Flohr teaches
30 having A-LAN control the videoconferencing on B-LAN (see above-identified

Flohr descriptions), Flohr does not describe, nor suggest, providing simultaneously on a DTV display both a videoconferencing session together with the delivery of a common program to selected subscribers. Flohr again teaches and suggests providing handshake signals on A-LAN to control a
5 videoconferencing on B-LAN. Thus, it is moreover not the teaching of Flohr to provide simultaneous common program delivery on B-LAN, while providing videoconferencing on A-LAN as Examiner suggests.

As to Examiner's rejections of Applicant's dependent Claims 2-5,
10 Applicant respectfully submits that since Applicant's Claims 2-5 dependent from Applicant's Claim 1, the arguments Applicant provided above relating to Claim 1 are also applicable to Claims 2-5 to support Applicant's request for Examiner reconsideration and withdrawal of rejections to Claims 2-5.

15 As to Examiner's rejection of Applicant's independent Claims 8 and related dependent claims 9 and 10, Examiner indicates that the rejections of Claim 8 follows on Examiner's rejection of Claim 7. In particular, similar to Applicant's independent Claim 1 and 6, Applicant's Claim 8 clearly set forth, as provided in part below, the element of having both videoconferencing during program
20 delivery:

...wherein the interface couples to a program source for presentation of a program by the display, the interface receiving a conference signal...for presentation of a video conference by the display....the video conference
25 comprising a session being conducted with the conference participant during the presentation of the program...
(Applicant's Claim 8 provided in part.)

Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant's argument that Flohr does not show, nor
30 teach, the described claimed element provided above relating to Claims 1-7 also likewise

supports Applicant's request for Examiner reconsideration and allowance of Claim 8, and its dependent Claims 9-10.


Conclusion

5 Applicant has not added any new matter by this amendment.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests Examiner's reconsideration and withdrawal of rejections to Applicant's Claims 1-10. However, should there be any issue relating to this matter that can be promptly addressed by a phone conference the Examiner is encouraged to call Applicant at (650) 325-4999 to expedite a resolution.

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Respectfully submitted,
Applicant



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